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PRESS RELEASE

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FORMER MADISON COUNTY DEPUTY SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

Terrell L. Harris, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, and Ralph F. Boyd, Jr., Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice, announced today the sentencing of a former Madison County Deputy Sheriff, **Samuel L. Markin**, 37, of Jackson, Tennessee. Markin was previously indicted by the federal grand jury in Jackson and charged with one count of **Deprivation of Civil Rights Under Color of Law** in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 242. On November 30, 2001, he entered his plea of guilty to the charge and was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge James D. Todd to one year in prison.

The federal charge alleged that on January 15, 2001, Markin, while acting as a Madison County Deputy Sheriff, assaulted Robert Carter and violated Carter's right to be free from the intentional use of unreasonable force by one acting under color of law. Under the terms of an agreement with the government, Markin was also required to surrender his certification to work as a law enforcement officer and agree never to work as a law

enforcement officer again.

In sentencing Markin, Judge Todd remarked that police brutality cases must be dealt with or else the public's confidence in our criminal justice system is eroded. Todd further noted that the law does not allow a law enforcement officer to physically punish a suspect once arrested and become the judge, jury and prosecutor. He commented that many brave officers are called upon daily to keep their emotions in check when dealing with criminal suspects, but that Markin had allowed his to cross over the line.

In announcing the sentencing, Harris had special praise for Madison County Sheriff David Woolfork's cooperation with the FBI investigation. He also had commendations for FBI Special Agent Clayton Goldsmith for his work on the investigation and for Malachi Jones of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, who prosecuted the case for the government with Assistant U.S. Attorney Len Register.